



U.S. Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DRUG DEFENDANT FOUND GUILTY

MACON: Maxwell Wood, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia, announces that **PETER DEANDRE LAWRENCE**, age, **31** of **Athens, GA** was found guilty after a two day jury trial. LAWRENCE was convicted of both counts of the Indictment. Count One charged LAWRENCE with Possession With Intent to Distribute Crack Cocaine in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846 and Count Two charged the defendant with Possession With Intent to Distribute Crack Cocaine in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1). LAWRENCE faces a minimum mandatory sentence of five years to a maximum sentence of forty years imprisonment, a \$2, 000,000.00 fine, or both, on each count. There is no parole in the federal system.

On July 30, 2003, LAWRENCE was arrested after he fled Athens-Clarke County Police Officer Jerry Soulters who was attempting to stop LAWRENCE pursuant to a traffic violation. Officer Soulters recovered a large amount of crack cocaine pre-packaged for distribution from LAWRENCE.

Athens-Clarke County Drug and Vice Detectives Tim Parker and Jeff Fitzgerald continued the investigation locating the base of operations a short distance away in an apartment complex. Prior to the return of the federal indictment, LAWRENCE made bond on local charges and had been on the run for almost a year until August 12, 2004. Athens-Clarke County Senior Police Officer Von Anderson and Officer Matthew Russell discovered LAWRENCE, a passenger in a vehicle involved in a routine traffic stop, in possession of crack cocaine and arrested him.

For further information, contact United States Attorney Maxwell Wood or Assistant United States Attorney Tamara Jarrett through Sue McKinney, Public Affairs Specialist, United States Attorney's Office, at (478)621-2602.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

Maxwell Wood by G. T. Patton

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